

might have made a difference in raising that \$600 amount higher during the negotiating.

Looking forward, there is a way to provide this relief to Americans without leaving here in a contest of blame but in a new year of mutual congratulation. Pass the \$2,000 stimulus payment plan as a stand-alone, clean bill.

I just want to say that I am probably the only Senator who has supported two measures—one of them actually passed by the Congress and signed by the President to reform section 230 and the other unanimously voted out of the Judiciary Committee. They reformed section 230, and I support reforming section 230. I have hardly been uncritical of section 230. There should be major reform of section 230, but it has to be done in a careful, deliberate, and considered way as a separate measure, not as a meat ax in a totally unrelated bill, the \$2,000 payment bill that provides real relief for the country.

Loading the CASH Act with poison pills is obstruction. It is not constructive legislating, and it fails to meet the test of this moment. It is vital that we move forward to provide struggling Americans with this relief, and scuttling the \$2,000 stimulus payment bill with a half-baked, meat-ax evisceration of section 230 is cruel and downright stupid. It betrays the mission and obligation that we have in these waning days of 2020.

Americans need more help, and they need hope. Help and hope are embodied in the vaccine. Unfortunately, the roll-out of this vaccine, despite the \$8 billion contained in the latest pandemic relief bill, has been hopelessly behind schedule. The number of doses distributed is roughly one-tenth of what it should be even under the scaled-back schedule that this administration has adopted. Twenty million vaccinations were promised by the end of the year. That number was way below the initial promise, and only about one-tenth of them—probably 2 million—will actually be provided.

Instead of taking responsibility or taking control, President Trump is still tweeting; instead of action, more talk. Only action will save lives, and either he doesn't care enough, or he doesn't really see what is necessary to do in order to save these lives, because the distribution of this vaccine is a matter of life and death.

Using the Defense Production Act, mobilizing America, making sure States have the resources they need, providing money to hospitals, and making sure there are the vials, syringes, training for workers, as well as the facilities to transport, store, and distribute this vaccine, are essential now. They are missing at this moment, and the President is where the buck stops.

Now I look forward to a 2021 when a new President will expand the stimulus payments to individuals and when many of the other gaps left unfinished—action that still is necessary—

will be fulfilled by another, more robust, bigger, bolder pandemic relief program. I hope we will have the same bipartisan support that we saw at the end of this year for the latest. I hope we will overcome the divisions that prevented us from doing what is really necessary and adding \$1,400 to the \$600 already provided.

We need to do more for small businesses. Yes, there will be another round of PPP payments, but this chasm faced by restaurants, retailers, and small businesses struggling to keep their doors open, keep their people on payroll during the holidays—we have seen them all and talked to them. Their stories are riveting and heart-breaking. Businesspeople have poured their hearts and souls and lives into these businesses, only to see them threatened with extinction.

This crisis has a racial justice aspect that cannot be ignored because disproportionately, the businesses that have failed are Black- and Brown-owned. Disproportionately, the lives lost have been in Black and Brown communities. Disproportionately, the jobs lost have been in those same communities—Black and Brown communities that have suffered more than any other as a result of this pandemic. So we need to make sure that they receive the vaccine as well as the therapeutics and testing that are necessary to save lives.

We are in the midst of a racial justice moment that affects policing and criminal justice, but it also affects our schools, where the ZIP Code of a child's residence can mean the difference between a quality education or not; where Black and Brown communities suffer twice or three times the death rate of others as a result of this pandemic; where job discrimination still exists and where, in housing, redlining still afflicts these communities; and where environmental quality—rivers, lakes, air can still be disproportionately contaminated and polluted in communities inhabited by Black and Brown people.

We are here in the last day of an unprecedented and catastrophic year. More than 342,000 of our fellow Americans are dead as a result of this insidious virus—over 342,000 gifts unwrapped, places at the table left open, and many of them without a final goodbye. This past year will go down as one of the hardest in our history.

I think we all hope for a better year, but it will come only if we take the kind of action that apparently my Republican colleagues are failing to provide today, which is to meet the need to match the moment of the desperate and dire straits of so many Americans.

The failure to approve an additional \$1,400 and pass the CASH Act is a haunting omission. My hope is that the hopes of a hurting nation will be met in this new year, that the calls for justice and relief will be heard, and that the ailing and sick—not just physically but emotionally—will be met. This cri-

sis has been one of physical health care but also mental health care, and the emotional strains can be seen in the rising rates of domestic violence, substance abuse disorder and addiction, and so many other areas where mental and emotional stress and anxiety have taken a toll. The hopes of a fearful and grieving nation rests on our shoulders, and we cannot let them down.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

#### TRIBUTE TO GARY HERBERT

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, I stand today to honor my friend Gary Herbert, Governor of the State of Utah for the last 12 years, who, after a long career in public service, is now embarking on a really well-deserved, hard-earned retirement.

He served the State of Utah and has done so with great enthusiasm and dedication and spirit, and I am grateful to have worked alongside him throughout his tenure serving our great State.

Gary Herbert was born in American Fork, UT, and grew up in Orem. He served a 2-year mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints on the east coast and later attended Brigham Young University, my alma mater.

He first began his public service in college, serving in the Utah Army National Guard for 6 years and eventually becoming a staff sergeant. After his time in the National Guard, he set up a real estate firm and was very successful, eventually becoming the president of the Utah Association of Realtors. He also served as president of the Utah Association of Counties, by the way.

Starting in 1990, he served as a commissioner on the Utah County Commission. He served there for 14 years, and it was at that point that he began his statewide service within Utah. You see, in 2004, when Jon Huntsman ran for the Governor's seat, Gary became his running mate, running alongside Huntsman as his Lieutenant Governor, with the pair going on to win the race in November.

It was then that I first got to know Gary Herbert personally, when I was hired to be Governor Huntsman's general counsel. One of my first memories of Gary Herbert—which, to me, seems like it was just the day before yesterday—occurred when we all began moving into the Governor's office suite, just the day before Herbert and Huntsman were sworn into office.

Gary came in and provided us all with a warm welcome, but he didn't stop at the welcome. He offered really sound and heartfelt advice about the importance of staying grounded as we were entering the political fray. He explained that long after our service and the Huntsman-Herbert administration expired, we want to be able to look back and be pleased about the relationships that we had formed with each other, but especially the relationships

that we had maintained with our families, our children, and God.

I soon learned that Governor Herbert, in addition to being wise and in addition to being a skilled and valuable statesman, was also a formidable athlete. Right after he and Governor Huntsman were sworn in, the staff got together as a team several times in the Governor's mansion, where we soon discovered there was a ping-pong table in the basement. I then learned the hard way that Governor Herbert's athletic skills, including his ping-pong skills, are off the charts.

While severing Governor Huntsman, I always found Gary to be friendly, approachable, and always willing to tackle every single assignment with eagerness and poise. Whenever Governor Huntsman's schedule became chaotic or changed unexpectedly, which happens in any Governor's office or any Senator's office, for that matter, particularly at certain times of the year, Lieutenant Governor Herbert would routinely be dispatched to speak on Huntsman's behalf, often sending him to remote corners of the State and often at really inconvenient times.

He never once complained. And he was not only willing, but he was always eager and happy. He felt fortunate for the opportunity to help. That is the kind of enthusiasm that the people of the State of Utah have benefitted from for so long as a result of Gary Herbert's service. You see, he has never lost that—not during his entire time as Lieutenant Governor and not during his entire time as Governor. You can tell that he is exactly where he wants to be and that he feels privileged and he has been blessed to be able to serve the people of Utah.

Likewise, whenever there was an issue that needed to be addressed by the Governor, even within the office or around the capitol compound, but where the Governor was unable to meet with the particular group in question, Gary was always assigned to the case. He would meet with, as he described it, all the different stakeholders. He would get together the legislators, county commissioners, citizens from this or that part of the State, lobbyists, lawyers who may have been involved, in addition to other members of Governor Huntsman's administration. He would bring them all in together, and he would wade through all the intricate and often pedestrian details of the matter. You see, he wanted to get to the bottom of the issue. He wanted to understand it. What is more, he had the skill of figuring out the best path forward for all parties involved and for making everyone feel heard and understood. If ever, whenever, there was a way to achieve a win-win, Gary found it, and he brought people to it, and they were always grateful as a result.

The same traits that I saw in him as Lieutenant Governor would go on to make him an effective and beloved Governor himself. In office now as Governor since 2009, Gary Herbert is cur-

rently the Nation's longest serving Governor, and our State has seen exciting achievement and tremendous prosperity with Governor Herbert at the helm.

In the last 8 years, Utah has seen continued, steady growth in our economy, with improvements in our GDP, number of jobs, and unemployment rate. We have seen the boom of Silicon Slopes. We celebrated the sesquicentennial of the driving of the Golden Spike, when it was an honor to stand alongside Governor and Mrs. Herbert at that celebratory reenactment.

On that particular occasion, Governor Herbert and his wife Jeanette showed their characteristic enthusiasm by arriving in their finest 1869 apparel just to commemorate the moment, and it made all the difference. It made it all feel much more authentic.

So, too, was it an honor to join Gary when President Trump came to Utah to announce his decision to shrink the Bears Ears National Monument, when we could all stand together and celebrate the fact that someone in Washington had heard our concerns within the State and saw fit to redraw the boundaries in a manner more compatible with local interests and concerns.

Through his enthusiasm and his zeal, Gary Herbert has championed our State and the things that we stand for. He has done so very consistently and very enthusiastically. He can rattle off figures and metrics about Utah at the drop of a hat. I am convinced this man can do it in his sleep and do so infectiously and persuasively. And he is a compelling spokesman for our State's values.

His spirit has helped Utah to attract talent and investment not only from throughout the United States but from throughout the world and to make it the good place that it is to live.

Not only that, but Gary has been an instrumental partner in supporting initiatives that reflect and strengthen the values of our State. To champion the reclamation of our lands, he signed into law the Utah Transfer of Public Lands Act. He also signed into law innovative criminal justice reforms in Utah. He was at the cutting edge of that movement, making a far-reaching impact across our State and that ended up having impacts elsewhere.

In fact, his work in Utah in criminal justice reform helped pave the way for the work that Congress and President Trump were able to achieve at the Federal level through the passage of the First Step Act.

He has been a strong supporter of Utah's family culture and was helpful in the Senate's work promoting the child tax credit during our tax reform discussions just 3 years ago.

On a more personal note, Gary Herbert also had the wisdom to put my brother Tom on the Utah Supreme Court. In so doing, he has been a champion for textualism, the notion that judges are there to interpret the law based on what the law says, rather

than on the basis of what it might have said.

For all of his public achievements, Gary is perhaps most proud and always most conscious of and most aware of and most concerned about his own role as a husband, as a father, and as a grandfather. Gary and his wife Jeanette have 6 children together, as well as 16 grandchildren, and he is known to encourage them to "follow in his footsteps and marry up."

In a myriad of ways, Governor Herbert has been a champion and a spokesman for all that is good about our State. It has been an honor to serve the people of Utah with him, and I wish Governor Herbert and his wife Jeanette all the best as they embark on the next chapter of their lives together.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SCOTT of Florida). The majority leader.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, as in executive session, I ask unanimous consent that with respect to the Soskin nomination, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### UGANDA

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I rise with grave concern to speak about the troubling political situation in Uganda in the runup to that country's elections on January 14 and to call on President Museveni to take immediate action to stop the country's downward political spiral.

Uganda has been an important if not critical security and counterterrorism partner to the United States for well over a decade, playing a prominent role in the African Union's Mission to Somalia and hosting over 1.4 million refugees. Its leadership and influence in East Africa and the African continent writ large is difficult to overstate. However, these are troubling times in Uganda, and longstanding efforts to advance its democracy are now in peril.

National elections in Uganda have not met internationally accepted standards for free and fair polls since 1996, when they were held for the first time after a long-running conflict that brought President Museveni to power. For decades, Museveni's ruling National Resistance Party, NRM, has leveraged access to and influence over